



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/561,087	12/16/2005	Hiroshi Yahata	92478-8300	2444
52044	7590	05/29/2009	EXAMINER	
SNELL & WILMER L.L.P. (Panasonic) 600 ANTON BOULEVARD SUITE 1400 COSTA MESA, CA 92626			WENDMAGEGN, GIRUMSEW	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER			
2621				
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
05/29/2009	PAPER			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/561,087	Applicant(s) YAHATA ET AL.
	Examiner GIRUMSEW WENDMAGEGN	Art Unit 2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/9/2009.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 7,13,15-16 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 7,13,15-16 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/27/09

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3/9/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding claim7, applicant argues that Yamene et al does not disclose upon reading control data, a graphic that has been received already outputs, based on the read control data. However examiner respectfully disagrees. Yamene decodes the sub-picture (graphic), which is in the buffer 2700 in figure3 (been received already) based on decoding start signal (see figure3 and column12 line37-46, line60-column13 line3; "This time information signal St77 is supplied to the synchronizer 2900 through the decoding system controller 2300 as the synchronization control data St81. Based on this synchronization control data St81, the synchronizer 2900 determines the decoding start timing whereby each of the bit streams will be arranged in the correct sequence after decoding, and then generates and inputs the video stream decoding start signal St89 to the video decoder 3800 based on this decoding timing".) Since the claim does not specify the type of control data, time information signal St77 of Yamene can be equivalent to the control data.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim7, 13, 15-16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamane et al (Patent No US 6,181,872).

Regarding claim7,13,15, Yamane et al anticipates a reproduction apparatus for reproducing a digital stream generated by multiplexing a video stream and a graphics stream (see Fig.3; Fig. 26), comprising: a video decoder operable to decode the video stream to generate a moving picture (see Fig.3 element 3800; Fig. 26 element 3801);and a graphic decoder operable to decode the graphics stream to generate graphics (see Fig.3 element 3100; Fig. 26 element 3100), wherein upon reading control data in the graphics stream, the graphics decoder transfers graphics generated by decoding graphics data that precedes the control data in the graphics stream to a plane memory, based on the control data (see column12 line18-29).

Regarding claim16, Yamane et al anticipates reproduction apparatus for reproducing a digital stream generated by multiplexing a video stream and a graphics stream(see Fig.3; Fig. 26), comprising: a video decoder operable to decode the video stream to generate a moving picture, and store a picture constituting the moving picture into a video plane; a graphics decoder operable to decode the graphics stream to

generate graphics, and store the generated graphics into a graphics plane (see Fig.3 element 3800; Fig. 26 element 3801); and an adder operable to overlay the graphics and the moving picture by performing addition for corresponding pixels in the picture stored in the video plane and the graphics stored in the graphics plane (figure3 and 26 element 3500, column 32 line 45-49), wherein upon reading control data newly from a recording medium, the graphics decoder transfers graphics which have been generated by decoding graphics data that precedes the control data in the graphics stream, to the graphics plane based on the control data (see column12 line18-29).

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GIRUMSEW WENDMAGEGN whose telephone

Art Unit: 2621

number is (571)270-1118. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00, M-F, alr Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tran Thai can be reached on (571)272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Girumsew Wendmagegn/
Examiner, Art Unit 2621

/Thai Tran/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2621

Application/Control Number: 10/561,087

Art Unit: 2621

Page 6